Foreign exchange outgo on electronic items

3461. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY:
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the per piece value of foreign exchange outgo on each of the TV sets and VCR/VCP;

(b) what is the per piece total incidence of customs and excise duties on these items;

(c) how do Governmnet justify the wide variation of total percentage levy incident on 36 cm and 51 cm B & W TV, 51 cm CTV and VCR/VCP; and

(d) whether the variation is in harmony with the priority enjoyed by each of the products for the common man?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) The average foreign exchange outgo expressed as a percentage of the exfactory price in the case of VCR/VCP, Colour TV and Black and White TV is estimated to be as under:

VCR/VCP	40%
Colour TV (51 cm)	25%
Black and White TV	5%

(b) The per piece total incidence of customs and excise duties would vary from model to model. However, the total incidence of customs and excise duties expressed as a percentage of the assessable value is estimated to be as under:

Black and White TV	20—30%
Colour TV	50—60%
VCR/VCP	60—70%

(c) and (d) The rates duties are fixed keeping in view revenue and other considerations such as the state of industrial production of the item, consumption pattern and foreign exchange outgo.

Expansion of trade between India and Australia

3462. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to expand trade with Australia;

(b) whether Government have established any joint venture for that purpose; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to promote India's business potential in Australia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Various measures to improve bilateral trade between India and Australia were discussed during the visit of the Australian Prime Minister to India in February, 1989.

An Engineering display in 1987, an Office and Business machines display in 1988 and participation in Bicentennial International Trade Fair in July, 1988 were organised to improve our exports in Australia.

(b) Presently, there are two joint ventures in Australia approved by the Government and promoted by Indian Businessmen.

(c) In the trade agreement with Australia, a Joint Trade Committee has been set up for review of bilateral trade and economic relations which meets usually once a year. Besides, a Joint Business Council has been established between the the sides. A number of items for increasing among the business communities of both the sides. A number f items for increasing industrial flats from India and promotoinal measures have been identified at the last meeting of the Joint Business Council held

in February, 1989. It is also proposed to organise Buyer-Seller meets in Australia.

Trade between India and Mangolia

3463. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to expand trade with Mangolia;

(b) whether both the countries have identified areas for the expansion of trade between the two countries; and

(c) what other measures and follow up action have been taken for the expansion of trade between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) New areas like hides and skins, textile machinery and marine products etc., are being explored to expand the trade between the two countries. Besides come Indian companies have expressed interest in setting up joint ventures.

Export to Bulgaria

3464. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the items presently being exported to Bulgaria;

(b) the total amount worth of the goods/items exported to that country during the last three years;

(c) whether Government have signed a trade agreement with Bulgaria; and

(d) if so, what are the new items proposed to be exported to and imported from Bulgaria in the coming years under the trade pact signed between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) The major items of exports to Bulgaria are: soya extractions, coffee, black papper, finished leather and leather products, knitwear and garments, iron ore, earthmoving equipment and machine tools.

(b) The value of India's exports to Bulgaria during the last three years is given below :

Year	Rs./crores
1986-87	45
1987-88	47
1988-89 (April-Sept.) . .	14

SOURCE: DGCI&S, Calcutta.

(c) and (d) As Indo-Bulgarian trade is in free foreign exchange, Annual Trade Protocols of the type applicable to rupee payment countries are not drawn up. Accordingly in the meeting of the Indo-Bulgarian Permanent Working Group on Trade held in New Delhi from 27th Feb. to 1st March, 1989. Agreed Minutes were signed providing for indicative lists for a trade turnover of about US $ 150 million *i.e.* US $ 75 million each way during 1989. New items suggested for export to Bulgaria included spark plugs, textile machinery, machinery for auto ancillaries, railway equipment, diesel engines, electronic components, computers, vehicles, sub-station equipment like transmission towers, conductors/insulators, services for construction of hotels, etc. and new item suggested for import from Bulgaria included fnod processing machinery, wood working machinery, robots, metal working machinery, electronic motors, fork lift trucks, rifampicin, facilities for production of computer system etc.

Extension of pensionary benefits to the Employees of Export Promotion Councils

3465. SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Commerce has extended pen-